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breast of the idol lies a child which is partly reclining on one hand. The quality of this work would seem to prove that the same artist made both this and the inclined shaft. The only difference in the face on the south side is that the ears are ornamented with rings. The east and west sides have each 34 rectangles arranged in pairs and all containing hieroglyphics.

As the land hereabouts is but slightly above the general level of the river, there is no doubt that the frequent inundations have buried many other monuments.

The idols of Quiriguá have no altars like those of Copan, but within the space occupied by the afore-mentioned, there are two immense stones which very probably served as such. The first one is nearly round, some 12 feet in diameter, and is situated a few feet from the first obelisk. The upper portion is painted red and a sculptured tiger's head can be made out, having a human head under it. A line of finely sculptured glyphs covers the back. What looks like a seat occupies the center, around which there are several grooves which run toward the floor. All this would seem to indicate the use of this stone as a sacrificial altar.

The second stone, which is between the fourth and fifth obelisks and to the east of them, is long and oval, being 6 feet high and 25 feet in circumference. The whole surface is covered with figures in semi-relief, which are in a much better state of preservation than those seen on the other monuments. One of these figures represents a woman without hands or legs, but with the arms extending to the floor. The forehead is narrow. Another figure is that of a turtle whose eyes are one foot across; representations of many fruits and flowers now found in the surrounding mountains, covered the rest of this stone. This fact seems to explode the idea of many regarding a change of climate, since the

Central American cities, monuments, etc., were built.

There are several sculptured stones which are completely covered with moss and tropical vegetation and deeply imbedded in the soft humus. On one of them a tiger's head could be made out and wherever the moss could be scraped away hieroglyphics appeared.

The truncated pyramid of Quiriguá is some 28 feet high. Oblong blocks of sandstone have been used in constructing it, but the whole is a mass of broken rock to-day. There are two platforms on the pyramid, the second one having a series of circular niches, usually two feet in diameter and fairly well preserved.

Although the monuments of Quiriguá are larger than those of Copan, they are inferior in sculpture and their extremely weathered and ruined condition would prove them to be much older also.

Some historians have stated that Quiriguá was a large city, destroyed by the Aztecs when at the height of their power, on the plain of Anahuac. The site is indeed picturesque. To-day it is the abode of the denizens of the forest, reptiles seeming to have taken to it with special *gusto*.

JOHN R. CHANDLER.

GUATEMALA, CENTRAL AMERICA, April, 1896.

#### CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

##### PRIMITIVE ETHNOLOGY OF FRANCE.

BASING his researches on the measurements of nearly 700 skulls and an examination of abundant artefacts of the palæolithic and neolithic periods, M. P. Salmon has constructed a map showing the ethnology of France in the stone age. The results arrived at may be briefly stated to be that the whole of the territory was down to neolithic times occupied by a people distinctly long-skulled, though probably of two different types. These were not violently dispossessed or exterminated, but

more or less absorbed by two streams of short-skulled tribes, one from the northeast across the lower Rhine, the other apparently from Switzerland and beyond, down the Rhone. Later than these, at about the middle of the neolithic period, a long-skulled stock entered from the northeast or east, the shape of whose heads in other respects differed materially from the original inhabitants of Gaul.

It would be tempting to undertake the identification of these various peoples on the one hand with the protohistoric tribes whose names are mentioned by Cæsar and other early chroniclers, and on the other with types of the existing population. Some ethnologists have attempted this, but M. Salmon prefers to avoid such uncertain though alluring fields.

#### PALÆOLITHS FROM SOMALILAND.

THE 'palæolithic' implements from South Africa have long been known; but it is quite lately that specimens from East Africa, from the territory of the Somalis in the 'horn' of Africa, have been exhibited. Mr. Seton-Karr figures a number of them in the journal of the Anthropological Institute for February. In size and form they resemble the so-called palæolithic types. But we know that these types survived in neolithic ages, in many localities. We turn, therefore, to the evidence of their discovery in ancient strata. This proves not very satisfactory. They were found on or near the surface, and the only evidences adduced as to their alleged antiquity were their form and their weathering (patine). "Different ages and styles were found mixed together, some not much weathered, others extraordinarily so." This is surely far from conclusive as to their antiquity, and certainly would not satisfy an intelligent American collector.

#### COMPARATIVE ETHNIC ANATOMY.

THE anatomical differences between the

so-called races or varieties of the human species have been examined with considerable attention but without satisfactory results. This has largely been owing to the personal bias of observers. Either, like Nott and Gliddon, they were determined polygenists, and were bound to elevate racial into specific differences; or they held the opposite views, and worked with an aim to efface apparent distinctions; or, especially of late years (*e. g.* Dr. Hervé, of Paris), they were so bent on seeing simian and pithecoïd analogies that they lost sight of racial traits in atavistic reversions.

The vague resultant of such biased studies is seen in a discussion before the Anthropological Society of Washington, reported in the *American Anthropologist* for April. It was agreed that the term 'atavism' has been much abused by naturalists. Dr. Baker pointed out that food habits have a marked effect on osseous structures; he denied that the racial peculiarities of the negro are remarkably simian; many supposed racial criteria are merely the result of conditions which would produce them in any race; and he considered that anthropometry as at present taught is inadequate to define true morphological characters. These opinions are unquestionably well-founded, and they illustrate why so little is positively established in comparative racial anatomy after so much labor has been expended upon it.

D. G. BRINTON.

#### NOTES UPON AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE.

##### THE AMERICAN PERSIMMON.

A STATION bulletin (No. 60, Indiana) has been issued upon the persimmon, and with several full-page plates of the tree and its fruit the subject is given a most favorable introduction. Prof. Troop shows that on account of the astringent principle in the unripe fruit, the tendency of the plant to